GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3350
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
MISUSE OF SUBSIDY BY TELECOM OPERATORS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain telecom operators have filed false claims for getting money from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and have thereby misused the subsidy amount;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the eligibility conditions for getting subsidy from the said fund?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Errors have been identified in claims submitted by private and State owned service providers who have entered into agreements with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). However, all such ineligible claims are disallowed at the time of claim verification stage itself or subsequently at the time of physical inspection. The errors committed in such claims inter alia includes arithmetical mistakes, claims against faulty, disconnected & closed connections and claims for connections in ineligible areas.

(b) Following steps are taken with reference to ineligible claims:-

(i) All such ineligible claims on detection are disallowed.

(ii) Based upon implementation experience, the method of claim verification is continuously improved for ongoing as well as new activities undertaken by USOF.

(iii) In case of over-payment, the same is recovered as per terms and conditions of relevant USOF agreement.

(c) The USOF Administration enters into Agreements with telecom service providers for implementation of USOF schemes e.g. schemes for provision of Village Public Telephone (VPTs), Rural Community Phones (RCPs), Rural Household connections (RDELs) and mobile infrastructure and service with varying eligibility conditions for subsidy payments defined in these agreements.